

Message Text

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12

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SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - COMMITTEE III - POPULATION
AND THE FAMILY - AUGUST 21

DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH ITEM ON MODERNIZATION OF THE FAMILY.
ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN, THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN,
AND CONSIDERATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN TO NATIONAL POPULATION
POLICIES.

1. CUBA DISCUSSED ADVANCES IN CHILD CARE, LITERACY AND FAMILY
PLANNING; THE HOLY SEE SPOKE OF FAMILY VALUES, CONCLUDING WITH
"DEVELOPMENT IS THE BEST CONTRACEPTIVE"; CHINA ATTRIBUTED POPULATION
PROBLEMS TO "IMPERIALISM" AND "HEGEMONISM" PRACTICED BY THE
SUPER POWERS; AND ALGERIA ARGUED THAT ONLY A NEW "ECONOMIC
STRUCTURE" COULD EHLP THE POPULATION PROBLEM.

2. CANADA POINTED OUT THAT FAMILY ALLOWANCES DID NOT RAISE
POPULATION LEVELS; AND THE UK, SWEDEN, INDIA, AND THE US STRESSED
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN. THE CHAIRMAN
REQUESTED THAT THESE FOUR COUNTRIES PREPARE A DRAFT PORPOSAL ON
WOMEN.

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3. FRANCE POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE FOR THE WORKING MOTHER; THE NEED FOR REORGANIZATION OF RURAL AREAS, SUCH AS WATER SUPPLIES, ENCOURAGEMENT OF HANDICRAFTS AND OTHER HOME INDUSTRY TO HELP THE FAMILY TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

4. ROMANIA SAID PROGRAMS SHOULD GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY; GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SUPPORT MEASURES WHICH INSURE LITERACY, AND FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN ORDER TO PREPARE THEM TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS OF COUNTRY AND THAT GOVERNMENTS RATIFY OR ACCEDE TO INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN ADOPTED BY THE UN. ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT ACTIONS BE TAKEN TO ANALYSE THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THEIR ADVANCEMENT.

5. FINLAND WISHED TO HIGHLIGHT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE FORMULATION OF POPULATION POLICIES. DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY FINLAND URGED GOVERNMENTS "TO MAKE THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND MEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND FAMILY LIFE, AND TO ABOLISH ALL DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN LAW AND PRACTICE, AND REQUESTED THE UN ORGANS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION (WITH) THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1975."

6. SWEEDEN STATED THAT GOVERNMENTS MUST TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY POLICIES AND SHOULD SEE TO THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE FAMILY AS WELL AS TO THE FUNCTIONS IT IS EXPECTED TO FULFILL. CONTRACEPTIVES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE, AND IN ORDER FOR COUPLES TO DECIDE FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN THE RIGHTS OF THE WOMAN TO ABORTION MENAS THAT SOCIETY MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY MEDICAL SERVICES. WE CANNOT HOPE TO REDUCE THE REATE OF POPULATION GROWTH UNTIL WOMEN PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN THEIR SOCIETIES.

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7. NORWAY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFINING HEALTH SERVICES AND THE NEED TO DECENTRALIZE SERVICES SINCE IN SOME COUNTRIES 75-80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION DOES NOT HAVE ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE. NORWAY PLACED THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN SECOND IN PRIORITY TO HEALTH SERVICES. THE WORLD CONFERENCE DURING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SHOULD BE A DIRECT FOLLOW-UP OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND ATTENTION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO RELATED STRATEGIES

RATHER THAN FURTHER EXCHANGE REGARDING THE PROBLEMS OF WOMEN.

3. DENMARK SUPPORTED THE REMARKS MADE BY FINLAND, INDIA, AND THE US ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AND STATED THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN; THAT MODERNIZATION INCLUDES BETTER EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN. SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO SOCIAL GUIDANCE AND FREE ABORTION AFTER FIRST 12 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY.

9. INDONESIA SUPPORTED THE US STATUS OF WOMEN STATEMENT, AND PROPOSED THAT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR BE DEVOTED TO TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN, POPULATION, EDUCATION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR SKILLS INSTEAD OF SEMINARS ALREADY HELD IN ABUNDANCE.

10. THE NETHERLANDS DIRECTED ITS REMARKS TO THE NEED FOR PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE; THAT FAMILY POLICIES SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE PREPARATION FOR PARENTHOOD FOR YOUNG ADULTS OF BOTH SEXES.

11. THE REMARKS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES CONTINUED ON THE THEMES OF EMANCIPATION FOR WOMEN, THE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN BY BOTH PARENTS, HEALTH, TRAINING, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH, AND AGRARIAN REFORM.
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